

Name of Practice: VOLUNTARY STREAM EXCLUSION WITH GRAZING LAND  
MANAGEMENT  
DCR Specifications for No. VSL-6

This document specifies terms and conditions for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's voluntary stream exclusion with grazing land management best management practice that are applicable to all contracts entered into with respect to that practice.

A. Description and Purpose

A structural and/or management practice that will enhance or protect vegetative cover to reduce runoff of sediment and nutrients from grazing livestock on existing pastureland through livestock exclusion.

To document and provide livestock water systems, fencing and/or a hardened pad for winter-feeding that will improve water quality control erosion and eliminate direct access to or a direct runoff input to live streams where there is a defined water quality problem. **Stream exclusion fencing is a required component of this practice.** Rotational grazing is an optional enhancement of this practice.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. This practice is limited to pastureland that borders an intermittent or perennial stream or Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Resource Protection Area as defined by local ordinance. Exception to this may be granted in cases of severe environmental degradation occurring in and around features such as: springs seeps, ponds, wetlands, or sinkholes, etc.
2. A written management plan, to include a rotational grazing component should be developed if more than three new grazing units are created by the installation of interior fencing, and operation and maintenance plans should be prepared and followed in accordance with NRCS FOTG. Factors to be addressed in the management plan should include water sources, environmental impact of winter-feeding pad location, runoff from the feeding pad area, soil fertility maintenance, access lanes, fencing needs, wetlands, minimum cover or grazing heights, carrying capacity of the land and rotational schedules.
3. Grazing (including flash grazing) is not allowed in the protected riparian area during the lifespan of this practice.
4. To protect stream banks, this practice may include:
  - i. Fencing to restrict stream access in connection with newly developed watering facilities. The stream exclusion fence must be placed a minimum of 35 feet away from the stream, except as designed in areas immediately adjacent to livestock crossings and controlled hardened accesses.

- a. Wetlands, intermittent spring seeps and gullies adjacent to streams should be included in the buffer area. Isolated seeps, springs or wetlands may be fenced as well.
  - ii. Stream crossings for grazing distribution or limited water access as long as the fencing adjacent to the crossing restricts access to the excluded area.
  - iii. Fence chargers used to electrify permanent or temporary fencing.
  - iv. Watering facilities including:
    - a. troughs,
    - b. tanks/storage facilities/cisterns,
    - c. hydrants
  - v. Pipelines to convey water to watering facilities.
  - vi. Stream crossings for limited water access as long as the fencing adjacent to the crossing restricts access to the excluded area.
  - vii. Portable water supply system components such as troughs, pipe, etc. that are:
    - a. Commercially available or farmer constructed,
    - b. Large enough to provide a timely and sufficient volume of water for the livestock to be contained in a specific area for which the system is designed,
    - c. Capable of being maintained in a stable position and protected from any damage while the system or component is in use, and
    - d. Capable of being moved in a timely manner from one location to another within the acreage for which the system is designed.
5. All permits or approvals necessary are the responsibility of the applicant.
  6. Soil loss rates must be computed for all applications.
  7. The practice must not be in lifespan from any other conservation program.
  8. This practice is subject to NRCS Standards, 390 Riparian Herbaceous Cover, 533 Pumping Plant, 512 Forage and Biomass Planting, 561 Heavy Use Area Protection, 574 Spring Development, 575 Trails and Walkways, 578 Stream Crossing, 614 Watering Facility, 516 Livestock Pipeline, 472 Access Control, and 642 Water Well.
  9. All practice components implemented should be maintained for a minimum of 5 years following the calendar year of installation. The lifespan begins on Jan. 1 of the calendar year following the year of certification of completion. This practice is subject to spot check by the District throughout the lifespan of the practice.

C. Technical Responsibility

Technical and administrative responsibility is assigned to qualified technical DCR and District staff in consultation, where appropriate and based on the controlling standard, with DCR, Virginia Certified Nutrient Management Planner(s), NRCS, DOF, and VCE. Individuals certifying technical need and technical practice installation shall have appropriate certifications as identified above and/or Engineering Job Approval Authority (EJAA) for the designed and installed component(s). All practices are subject to spot check procedures and any other quality control measures.

Revised March, 2018